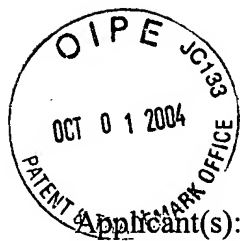


**PATENT**



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT EXAMINING OPERATION

Applicant(s): Joseph A. Costanzo

Serial No: 10/731,337

Group Art Unit: 3736

Filed: December 9, 2003

Examiner: Veniaminov, Nikita R.

Att. Docket No.: D2025/20036

Confirmation No.: 3550

For: LIFTING APPARATUS FOR PATIENT SUPPORT SURFACE

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated June 29, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.